

life in the United States through their participation in every sector of our society including business, the arts, sports, government, medicine and education. Of particular significance during these trying times, is the rich history of patriotism and sacrifice that the Latino community has made by serving proudly and with distinction in every major U.S. military conflict and in all branches of our armed services.

From the minutemen of the American Revolution to today's enlisted men and women in Iraq, the Latino community has a deep-rooted tradition of service in the U.S. military. Today there are 109,487 Latinos on active duty, representing approximately 9.5% of all active duty personnel. Latinos represent 9.7 percent of the Army, 10.5 percent of the Navy, 13.9 percent of the Marine Corps, and 3.4 percent of the Air Force.

Latinos have been recognized for their valor and bravery in some of this country's most important military confrontations. One of the greatest sources of pride among the Latino community is the 39 Medals of Honor awarded to Latinos in recognition of their valor. They are the largest single ethnic group, in proportion to the number who served, to earn this prestigious award.

During the American Revolution, soldiers from Spain, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic fought alongside the colonists for independence. Cuban women donated their jewelry to aid the colonists, helping to finance the Yorktown Campaign.

In World War One, Latino soldiers were decorated with the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the French Croix de Guerre, the Victory Medal with three bars, and the Purple Heart. During the Second World War, up to 500,000 Latinos served bravely—eleven receiving the Medal of Honor. Of particular mention is the story of Marine PFC Guy "Gabby" Gabaldon who single-handedly captured over 1,000 enemy soldiers in the summer of 1944, more than anyone else has in the history of military conflicts.

During the Korean War, the 65th Infantry Regiment—a Puerto Rican regiment—was given special recognition for participating in nine major campaigns, capturing 2,086 enemy soldiers, and killing 5,095 enemy combatants. Individual members of this regiment were awarded four Distinguished Service Crosses and 124 Silver Stars. My family and I had personal acquaintance with a Korean War hero from my neighborhood in Boyle Heights when I was growing up in Los Angeles. Private First Class Eugene Obregon was awarded the Medal of Honor for sacrificing his life to save that of a wounded comrade.

Fourteen Hispanics were awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery during the Vietnam War. Navy Lt. Everett Alvarez became the first American prisoner of war (POW), and remained so for over 8 years, the longest confirmed POW in American history. The last American to leave Vietnam was Senior Master Sergeant Juan J. Valdez, who served at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and departed by helicopter on April 30, 1975.

When Iran held 52 American hostages in 1980, the Ayatollah offered to release all minorities. Marine Corporals Lopez and Gallegos refused, instead stating, "I am an American—I am a U.S. Marine, I will be the last one to leave," invoking the spirit of American patriotism above all else.

Today, as we wage the war on terror in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Latino community con-

tinues to prove its commitment to America by serving proudly and with honor. They remind all of us, that there is no better way to demonstrate devotion to your country than the willingness to make sacrifices for it. Through their service in the armed forces thousands of brave individuals in the Latino community have proven their love and dedication to our American values of liberty and freedom for all.

As we recognize the Latino community during National Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to thank the service men and women, both past and present, for their commitment and sacrifices to our country. They truly embody the spirit of pride and community that Hispanic Heritage Month is designed to celebrate.

RECOGNIZING THE COLORADO PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colorado Public Interest Research Group (CoPIRG) on the celebration of its 30th anniversary of operation in Colorado. This outstanding nonprofit organization has been recognized as one of the state's strongest grassroots groups devoted to advocacy, action and results.

In an effort to advocate for Colorado's citizens, CoPIRG's current programs focus on affordable health care, consumer protection, environmental advocacy, and the strengthening of our democracy.

The cost of health care and prescription drugs are soaring and senior citizens and the uninsured are paying a disproportionate share of their incomes for their basic health care needs. CoPIRG, through its surveys, is advocating for Congressional reforms and urging our state government to develop buying pools to benefit those on fixed incomes and without employment most impacted by these spiraling costs.

Coloradans have many areas where they need more personal and consumer protection. Through comprehensive reports each year prior to the holiday-giving season, Public Interest Groups across the nation have targeted unsafe toys in retail stores and on the Internet. For the past 17 years, these reports have led to over 100 recalls and prompted the passage of a federal toy labeling law in 1994.

Investor protections were highlighted last year when CoPIRG advocated for consumer privacy laws to protect credit card numbers from theft. This year, CoPIRG is working to strengthen laws governing the accounting industry in Colorado and increase funds for investigations and other reforms.

Targeting corporate fraud, a CoPIRG backed law helped create an independent oversight system to ensure that audit firms aren't subject to conflicts of interest. Through a research report, consumers can reduce their banking fees through better knowledge of industry charges. In 2001, predatory lending practices were exposed through CoPIRG's research, leading Colorado's Attorney General to file civil suits against offenders, the first such action in the nation. In another national first, Colorado passed a law to provide con-

sumers with free annual credit reports upon request.

On the front lines of environmental and public health protection, CoPIRG has fought to strengthen air standards, reduce pollutants that cause global warming, smog and increase respiratory diseases such as asthma. In a campaign to keep our water clean and safe for drinking and recreation, PIRGs nationally are working to enforce toxic regulations on corporate violators.

In an effort to protect our nation's coastlines, Public Research Interest Groups across the nation are advocating to leave wilderness areas free from oil and gas drilling. As one of the country's largest source of pollution, fossil fuels continue to be harmful to the nation. PIRGs across the country are working to support the use of renewable sources of energy through education and advocacy. With the motto, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, CoPIRG and other affiliates are building environmentally sound alternatives to keep our nation clean and safe for all its citizens.

Fighting for Colorado's citizens, CoPIRG has partnered with Colorado Common Cause, the League of Women Voters of Colorado, the Colorado Environmental Coalition and other advocacy organizations to direct a county by county effort to expand voter participation through Colorado Citizens' Voice. Using training workshops, the coalition supports citizen involvement in government decisions and works for meaningful reform on critical issues.

Through comprehensive reports and releases, CoPIRG keeps voters informed of campaign contributions, compiles statistics on campaign financing trends and continuously advocates for campaign finance reform and the protection of initiative process in Colorado.

For the past thirty years, Colorado and the Rocky Mountain West has been the proud home of Colorado Public Interest Research Group. For their many accomplishments on behalf of its citizens, we commend their service and wish them many years of future success.

RECOGNIZING AUGUSTINE GALLEGO DURING HISpanic HERITAGE MONTH

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, which commemorates the numerous contributions that Latinos make to our country. It is my privilege today to recognize an extraordinary individual who shapes the future every day through his valuable work, San Diego Community College District Chancellor Augustine Gallego.

In his 14 years as Chancellor, Augustine "Augie" Gallego has earned a reputation as a national leader in higher education. He is the immediate past chair of the American Council on Education (ACE). Change Magazine recently named him as one of the 21 most influential higher education senior leaders in the United States. Locally, he is known for bringing together business leaders, community members, and politicians to find solutions for challenges within the educational system.

Chancellor Gallego is a positive role model for young people within the Latino community and beyond who are unsure about pursuing post-secondary education. The story of Augie's decision to go to college is inspirational. As a young man, Chancellor Gallego found work digging ditches. One day while digging, he looked up and noticed college students nearby. That moment served as an epiphany; Augie realized he did not have to dig ditches for a living. He decided to attend college.

Chancellor Gallego truly embodies the mission of the San Diego Community College District of providing an accessible, high quality learning experience that responds to the unique needs of local communities and student populations. In his capacity as chief executive officer of one of the largest community college districts in the United States, he led the development of numerous innovative programs, including public and private partnerships to more effectively and efficiently serve students and the community. Among his many accomplishments, Chancellor Gallego has facilitated community college transfer to California's four-year public colleges, and developed opportunities for students to intern and work at local businesses.

All of Chancellor Gallego's endeavors show a profound appreciation, understanding, and passion for community colleges and their role in the economic development, work force training, and education of a community. He respects the unique backgrounds and needs that each student brings to the classroom. The diverse community college population includes "breakthrough students" who are the first in their family to go to college, nontraditional students returning to school to obtain skills to help them either re-enter or advance in the labor market and students experiencing financial hardship. Community colleges represent hope and provide opportunities for many in San Diego County. Chancellor Gallego has helped turn those hopes into reality for thousands of San Diegans.

A vocal advocate for students, Chancellor Gallego has brought attention to the impact of California's education budget reductions. Funding decreases translate into increased class size, fewer classes, less financial assistance and, ultimately, lost potential for the community.

As Hispanic Heritage Month draws to a close, I am proud to recognize Chancellor Augustine Gallego's steadfast commitment to improving the quality of education. Through his service in the San Diego Community College District, he has opened the doors of opportunity to a generation of students.

CAPTAIN DURWARD LANG: 50
YEARS OF REMARKABLE SERVICE

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, in August, 2003, Durward Lang retired as the Captain of the Fire Department of Buxton, Maine. Captain Lang's extraordinary service to the town began a half a century ago. He has held every rank from firefighter to Chief, and has been instrumental in many of the department's pro-

gressive changes. His contributions are remarkable in many respects, and reflect the can-do spirit of a man who has given his all to his community.

For example, Durward purchased a used ladder truck on his own, refurbished it in his garage, and gave it to the Town of Buxton for \$1. Not to be deterred, when the truck failed to pass inspection in 2000, he served on the committee formed to purchase another ladder truck.

Durward and his wife, Janet, also started the town's emergency dispatch service in their kitchen. They hired people to man the phone 24 hours a day. The service is now the 911 center for the Town. The Langs also ran the town rescue service together, spending many days and nights helping residents in trouble.

Fortunately, Durward has been persuaded to remain in service. Since his retirement as captain, he has served as a fire truck driver. I join the people of Buxton in thanking Durward and Janet Lang for their countless hours of service, and the model of civic involvement that they have established for all to emulate.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S 92ND NATIONAL DAY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, as a longtime supporter and proud member of the Taiwan Caucus, I would like to recognize and congratulate Taiwan on its 92nd National Day, which it celebrated on October 10, 2003. Taiwan has made many significant accomplishments during its brief history. It is a true friend to the U.S., and one of our major trading partners.

Taiwan is one of the largest export markets for many U.S. states, including New York. With a population of 23 million, the island of Taiwan is the world's 12th largest economy and our eighth largest trading partner. These economic ties have strengthened our bilateral relationship.

Taiwan is a thriving democracy, supportive of political freedoms and human rights. Its constitution guarantees citizens freedom of assembly, expression and association, freedom of religion, and freedom of the press. Taiwan conducts free and fair elections, and is home to more than 90 political parties.

I applaud Taiwan's commitment to upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, and the Declaration and Action Program of the 1993 Vienna Conference on Human Rights. I thank Taiwan for providing humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees, and for its generous contributions to the International Community. I fully support Taiwan's efforts to rejoin the United Nations and join the World Health Organization.

As we celebrate Taiwan's 92nd National Day, we recognize the strong relationship between our countries and commit ourselves to see this relationship continue to flourish and grow in the years to come.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, no one questions the need for the Federal Government to obtain the necessary resources to fill its constitutional role of providing for the common defense. However, the federal government must fulfill this duty in a manner that does not conflict in any way with the Constitution or endanger republican government. The Defense Production Reauthorization Act (DPA), which gives almost unchecked power to the executive to interfere in the economy in the name of "national security," fails both of these standards. In fact, when I inquired at the sole hearing the House Financial Services Committee held on this issue as to which section of the Constitution authorized such sweeping grants of power to the Executive, I was greeted by silence from the "expert" witnesses!

Under this bill, the President is given authority to void private contracts in order to ensure that federal defense priorities, as determined by the executive, are met. The only limitation on the President's judgment is a requirement that he submits a series of "findings" to Congress. The Executive also has what appears to be unchecked authority to use financial incentives such as loan guarantees, direct loans, and purchase guarantees to ensure production of items he determines are in the national interest.

Congress appears to have no ability to perform any real oversight of a Presidential action under the DPA. In fact, my office has been informed by the Congressional Research Service that past Presidents may have invoked the DPA without even submitting the required findings to Congress!

The wide grant of unchecked power to the Executive runs counter to the intent of the drafters of the Constitution. The Founders carefully limited the executive power because they recognized that an executive with unfettered power was a threat to liberty. In recent years we have seen administrations of both parties undermine the Constitutional separation of powers via enhanced reliance on executive orders and unilateral decision-making. The Defense Production Reauthorization Act provides Constitutional blessing to this usurpation of power, and not just in areas clearly related to national defense. For example, the DPA has been used to justify federal interference in the energy market. It is an open question what other exercise of federal power could be justified as related to defense. For example, federal education programs have been justified on the grounds that an educated population is vital to national defense, so perhaps a future president will use DPA to impose a national curriculum!

I am also concerned that this bill violates the Fifth Amendment's takings clause. In particular, DPA allows the government to seize private property by interfering with the performance of private contracts in order to give priority to military production. This action reduces the value of the affected parties' proprietary interests, and thus is a taking, requiring the government to provide just compensation to the affected party. The Fifth Amendment intends to assure that the government does not